

Nikki Hudson for Cleveland City Council Candidate Policy Platform

Strong Neighborhoods: The new Ward 11 is home to unique and diverse neighborhoods. Vibrant commercial corridors, preventing displacement, and more affordable housing will ensure that our neighborhoods remain diverse and resilient far into the future.

Housing Stability and Affordability: Strong neighborhoods protect housing as a human right and promote stable, affordable living for all residents.

Preventing Displacement - Advocate for policies that prevent forced displacement, including stronger tenant protections and anti-eviction measures.

Policy Idea: Support eviction diversion programs aimed at preventing physical removal through a combination of services like mediation, financial assistance, and payment plans.

Policy Idea: The City's current tax abatement policy will sunset in 2027. For tax abatement to continue, steps must be taken to make it more equitable, including new and creative policy solutions such as tax abatements for seniors and others on a fixed income prior to delinquency.

Policy Idea: Introduce tax abatement programs for landlords who agree to keep rents below a set threshold, effectively implementing a voluntary form of rent control.

Affordable Housing Development - Promote community benefits agreements that require developers to contribute to affordable housing when receiving public subsidies.

Policy Idea: For infill development, prioritize lease purchase homes and cost effective housing like modular homes over market rate homes.

Age In Place Housing - Advocate for new housing development and policies that allow seniors to remain in their homes and communities as they age.

Policy Idea: Expand the City's tax abatement program to homeowners who make qualifying age in place renovations to their homes.

Policy Idea: Eliminate minimum building and lot size requirements in Cleveland to allow for smaller, cottage style homes.

Policy Idea: Legalize accessory dwelling units citywide and not just in form-based code pilot areas to encourage backyard cottages.

Stabilize and Grow Commercial Corridors: We have many gems on our neighborhoods' commercial corridors, like Good Earth Farm, Cleveland Lumber, Rincon Criollo Take 2, and 787 Cafe. But we can and need to do better to attract the right businesses to fill in the vacancies that currently exist.

Policy Idea: Work with the City of Cleveland Department of Economic Development and area CDCs to provide support to existing businesses, attract new businesses, and establish merchants' associations.

Policy Idea: Hold vacant commercial property owners accountable by having a staff member whose sole focus is vacant and abandoned properties.

Policy Idea: Increase the City's vacant lot/building fee each year to discourage land speculation and encourage development.

Create a healthier and more sustainable urban environment:

Tree Canopy Expansion - Invest in planting and maintaining trees in neighborhoods to improve air quality and residents' quality of life.

Policy Idea: Expand the existing Ward 15 Tree Canopy Steering Committee and help similar committees and Tree Steward Programs be formed.

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Policy Idea: Provide education for residents around sewer line protection to minimize risk to trees and cost to residents. Build a program to credit residents' sewer bills when large trees exist on their property.

Green Space Development - Improve access to parks and recreational areas, ensuring all residents have access to natural spaces. Support resident-driven stewardship and programming to promote use of public spaces.

Policy Idea: Designate all city parks as open space recreation and find creative uses for abandoned green spaces.